

MAR 24 1976

Dear Jim,

4/23/76

The news in your 4/15 is great! Lil had told me how good it is by phone. I enjoyed the story of what she told the doctor and he told her when I got home yesterday evening. Reminds me of Lil about 1949. She had major abdominal surgery the day we started pouring the footing on the house at the farm. (I, naturally, was at the hospital, not the pouring. (Into which all the reinforcing rods I'd bought for a variety of projects went!) Her doctor, doing an exploratory and not knowing what he would find, had explained to her in advance that recovery is a function of how rapidly a patient can be walking around. Lil was in the OR for five or six hours and I was worrying more all the time until they wheeled her back. The next morning she heard her doctor's voice, pulled the various needles and tubes out, except the one that went down her hose, and got out of bed unassisted to walk out to meet him.

It not only blew his mind- it got her an in-hospital job. They wheeled in the pill patients for a day or two at a time and she was their psychological treatment. She suffered a pinched nerve and had to be rehospitalized for a while. Nurses came in to visit her regularly, including one who needed surgery and feared it until she saw Lil's precept. This attitude must be an important part of recovery and it seems to be Je's.

What you say about the doctor's intention of keeping Je in the hospital a little longer is, from my recent experience, wise. Fine as it is for the patient to be home, with all that means to those to whom home means much, I believe it is more important for there to be complete preparation for any changes in life and for medical certainty.

In my case I have had a and continue to have worries that need not be. It is good to eliminate them in advance. Je's doctor's approach seems to me to be sound and best.

We share your satisfaction at her good recovery and fine prospects and thank you for taking the time to let us know. It was on my mind until I left for New York, which drove everything else out of mind. (Considering everything the trip was successful. The speech went well and while Dell is stonewalling, they have admitted owing me more than \$10,000 and undetermined amounts in at least two other areas.

While I was away the DJ delivered helpful papers in response to our strong in-court pressures in one suit and an insane letter in another, so except for the considerable amount of work it means for Desar and me that also is good. As soon as I clean up the accumulation I'll have to get onto those things. Met with JL yesterday after our 9 a.m. TV show until the great kids took me home on their way to Erie for a seminar at Erie colleges. One of the girls lives in Erie. They even had a party in my hotel room in D.C. TV-provided with due bills, until I fell ~~as~~ asleep while talking in the wee hours. When I'd doze off for an instant in mid-sentence they took the hint.

We had a funny one on the TV show. There was a guest host while one of the two regulars was on vacation. It was Sally Quinn.

Jim and I get along well when we have no chance to prepare what we'll do. There were long periods in which I had no trouble just sitting in silence, as those who know me would not expect. There are times when he has no trouble letting me do the talking. And we know instinctively which is appropriate. So, when Sally found it necessary to make a few cracks about us and the press and we both made spontaneous, identical replies, that it was not true that we make regular TV appearances to promote anything, I let Jim explain the reason for our being there, not at all what she stupidly assumed but at the station's request because it had erred seriously and irresponsibly. She did not learn from this gaffe that she didn't know what she was into. When she persisted I took over as she spouted the traditional justifications for the unjustifiable press addictions. Each time she said something nasty I said "Let me address that with specifics." Knowing with whom she sleeps I was gentle and avoided naming a paper. Incredibly, she demanded that I do and I did. There must have been a half-dozen of these in a short period at the end of the hour. In each case there was no problem with an appropriate illustration that, fortunately, I had laid the basis for earlier in airing "new evidence." Not any of it had appeared in any paper. It is not easy not appearing to be a male chauvenist but

Sally helped. It was my first experience with a woman as a heavy and I like it. I think the audience's natural sympathy is with the woman. When she sets herself up this sympathy is transferred to the man if he is polite and makes the case. The college girls and Jim's baby-sitter who is close to my age, and Lil, more than a half-dozen women, all agreed that Sally flipped out and made my case. The kids all said she lost her cool and it showed, despite all her TV experience.

She said she'd like to get me and these unnamed editors together on a show and I accepted immediately. It will, of course, never happen. I'd love it.

This was quite delicate and I relished it as she was too insensitive to feel. Here she is sleeping with the man more responsible than any other in Washington and I'm the one who avoids naming him. The show's staff picked it up because Sally's personal life is no secret. The Post also owns that station.

Because I'd earlier been able to tell the story of the Invaders it was easy to recommend Les Payne as a guest, as I'd done before the show. One of the hosts is a black woman I know from having done her shows three or four times. She is also a law student in night school. With Les black it fit nicely. One of the producers asked me how to get in touch with Les and I told him. When Les phoned later about something else I was able to tell him and he agreed to do the show if asked, so if asked we'll have a little more pressure aired in DC.

I enjoyed it. It is good to know that I can go through one of these things with a woman, keep my ~~skin~~ under gross insults and take the play away with the odds against being able to do it. I don't, however, expect many opportunities.

On the train I was able to begin reading of the CIA declassifications. There are major stories not detected by the press, even the Village Voice, which has a story this week. One of the more obvious is that part of the CIA was engaged in a deliberate effort to con the White House and State into instant retaliation against Castro when JFK was offed. The basis was fakes shown to be fakes within days and obviously fakes from internal content. The man who did it? CIA defender Phillips was Mexico Station Chief at the time. He went directly to the White House, not through CIA hq. But by volume I've gone over less than 10% to date. I'll carbon when I write them.

Mike is the man I think was a victim of the CIA drug and mind-bending work. I thought I's sent you earlier carbons. Rod is Gibson, an Enquirer reporter who is a very good reporter and has become a very good friend. They have turned him loose on this story. There is a prima facie case that Olson was assassinated with a reasonable presumption of the reasons. There are also unreported - unexposed - unmentioned - other such CIA projects, at least one of which was a coverup operation. Four were carried under cryptonyms beginning with MK. I think this means "mind" and "kinetic." The coverup was "Bluebird," as in the old song, "Bye, Bye Bluebird."

Now to the refile of what I took with me and the accumulated mail.

Our best,

